



THE PROSPECT FOR OKINAWA'S INITIATIVE

**Towards Getting Rid of the U.S. Military Presence
in Okinawa**

**By
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ABSTRACT

This study of Okinawa focuses on issues concerning the U.S. military presence on the island. These issues are closely connected to the Security Treaty between Japan and the United States of America, which has prevented Okinawan self-determination. This thesis elaborates on the ways in which Okinawa has been suffering due to the presence of U.S. military bases. The bases have hindered Okinawa's economic development, created serious pollution and U.S. personnel have committed many crimes.

The thesis shows how, in the case of Okinawa, the U.S. and Japan have dealt with Okinawa, from the Battle of Okinawa in 1945 to the present day. The U.S. deployed soldiers from the Battle of Okinawa and after the battle; Okinawa became the Key Stone for America strategy and also became the biggest military station in the Far East region. The U.S. military strategy operated to protect American interests, not to protect Japan or Okinawa. Despite Okinawa having been sacrificed by Japan and the U.S., Okinawa seems to be building a new future with the gradual withdrawal of U.S. bases. This thesis also examines how is developing policies to assist its self-determination.

DECLARATION

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institutions and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by any other person, except where due reference is made in the text.

I give consent to this copy of my thesis, where deposited in the University Library being available for loan and photocopying.

Nao Matsubara
August 2002

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